



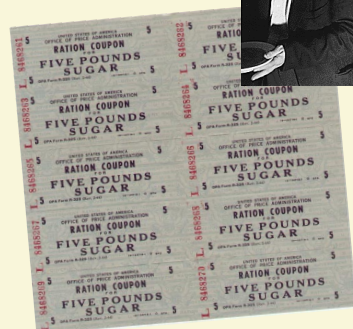
Myth #4

U.S. farm policy is nothing but corporate welfare benefiting only those receiving direct help.



Critics of U.S. farm policy would cede our food production to unstable places like the Third World, but in these times does any American want to depend on the Third World for a safe and abundant supply of food and fiber?

The *Washington Post* printed a story, dated May 5, 2002, citing critics complaining that increased help to U.S. farmers would frustrate a "consensus" on helping Third World agriculture. The question the *Washington Post* never asked and critics never bothered to answer is: Does any American want to depend on the Third World for a safe and abundant supply of food and fiber?



"Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to our farmers and ranchers for helping to ensure stability in our economy, for providing food products that amply meet all our citizens' needs, and for representing what is best about America. They show the character and values that have made this country strong, values of love and family, faith in God, and respect for nature."

-President George W. Bush

The places in the world where critics of U.S. farm policy would have Americans depend on for food are often places of political instability that do not have the safeguards on food safety that Americans expect.

The outcome is increased anxiety about foreign production methods, at best, and heightened concern about bioterrorism, at worst.



Soup lines and food rations were a reality in the 1930s and 1940s.

The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has never known widespread hunger. Even the United States, however, has had food shortages and has rationed food to ensure all Americans have enough to eat.

U.S. farm policy critics often point to an abundance of food and fiber and say, "never to worry." Likewise, a December 1945 article of *The American Political Science Review* noted that, prior to Pearl Harbor, few Americans gave serious thought to food shortages and rationing. But, 16 months later, the United States government began rationing sugar, processed foods, meats, and cheese. That was just 61 years ago. While a lot has changed since then, including methods of producing food and fighting war, the unforeseen can happen and the U.S. should always be prepared with ample supplies of safe food and farmers who know how to produce it.